GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:238
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Losses Suffered by Farmers
Gogoi Shri Gaurav

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that fruit and vegetable growers/ farmers across the country have been suffering due to the vagaries of nature and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to assist the fruit and vegetable growers/ farmers who have suffered during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to put in place a long term mechanism to address the concerns of fruit and vegetable growers/farmers across the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 238 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2ND AUGUST, 2016.

(a): All agricultural crops including horticulture crops like fruits and vegetables are susceptible to the vagaries of nature like floods, droughts, heat & cold waves, frost, hailstorm and cyclones.

(b): The State Governments are primarily responsible for taking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. For undertaking relief measures, funds are available with the State Government in the form of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). No memoranda has so far been received from any State seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) in the wake of hailstorm, drought etc. during the current financial year i.e. 2016-17. During the financial year 2015-16, memoranda have been received from various States seeking financial assistance under NDRF for drought and hailstorm. Financial assistance have been approved from NDRF to the tune of Rs.13,496.57 crores, details of which are at Annexure. The State Governments were requested to utilize 10% of the fund allocated under all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in a flexible manner so as to meet any contingency requirements arising out of deficient rainfall / aberrant monsoon.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has been launched in the year 2016 to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases and to stabilise the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming. The Government is also taking number of steps to encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices and ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

(c): Under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), interventions such as making available quality planting material, rejuvenation of old and unproductive orchards, promotion of drip irrigation, creation of water resources, protected cultivation, promotion of integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, organic farming, post harvest management and good agricultural practices are some of the long term measures to help farmers combat against vagaries of nature. Further, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has intensified research on developing drought resistant varieties of vegetables & fruits and production technologies to enhance the resilience of crops to weather vagaries under the project "National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)".